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## **JIB IS MAKING ITS PRESENCE FELT**

**Its administration of the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS) is assisting the Joint Industry Board (JIB) to take advantage of the continuing developments in the electrical contracting industry and increase its presence in other related industry sectors.**

Traditionally, the JIB has been the forum for the employers' representative body, the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA), and the trade union Amicus to agree upon issues such as employment conditions and rates of pay as well as act as an industry conciliator. In addition, it provides outstanding holiday and welfare benefits within a National Agreement that is supported by employers and employees. However, as the electrical industry faces new challenges, the JIB is developing its role accordingly.

This is most noticeable with its administration of the ECS. JIB introduced the scheme in 1999 to replace the UK Register of Electricians and, where appropriate, to incorporate the JIB Grade Card. The scheme is now a pan-industry leader and provides immediate proof of an electrician's technical competence and health and safety awareness. ECS is affiliated to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme and meets the requirements of the Major Contractors Group that all on-site personnel carry a recognised health and safety competence card.

"The pan-industry recognition of ECS as a certification scheme that works means, rather than re-invent the wheel, other related industry sectors are adopting the scheme," explained Ron Allender, chief executive of the JIB. "This is enabling the JIB, as the scheme's administrator, to operate with new partners beyond the electrical contracting sector, and to assist in the setting of occupational standards for related sectors".

The latest industry sector to sign up to ECS is the street lighting sector. In May, the Association of Street Lighting Electrical Contractors will be joining the ranks of the British Fire Protection Systems Association (BFPSA) and the British Security Industry Association (BSIA) who have already adopted the ECS scheme. In addition to the fire and security sectors, ECS also includes datacomms personnel and Qualified Supervisors under Part P of the Building Regulations. Over 70,000 operatives now carry the ECS card.

"The JIB continues to develop in many ways. It is proving to be of value to employers, clients, specifiers, local authorities and employees as the definitive

measure for employment, skills and health and safety standards within an increasingly diverse industry," said Ron Allender. "